

MINUTES
NILES/BUCHANAN/CASS AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Technical Advisory Committee
 Tuesday, January 23, 2007

TAC Members Present:	Joe Bellina, Cass County Road Commission Brian Berndt, Berrien County Road Commission Neil Coulston, City of Niles & DPW/Airport Juan Ganum, City of Niles Planning Darrell Harden, MDOT, Southwest Region Ray Lenze, MDOT – Planning Joe Ray, City of Niles Rick Smigielski, City of Buchanan
TAC Members Absent:	Sarah Koepke, Federal Highway Administration Elaine Lou, MDOT-Multi-Modal Mary Beth McAdams, MACOG (ex officio) Kate McIlwee, Berrien County Planning John Monaghan, Village of Edwardsburg Public Works Kristi Ross, Niles Dial-A-Ride Robert Rusch, MI Department of Environmental Quality/Air Quality Division Paul South, MDOT Coloma TSC Sharon Tyler, Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance/Cass Sarah Woolcock, MDOT Coloma TSC
Others Present:	Rachael Tupica, SWMPC Kelly Getman-Dissette, SWMPC Don Ryman, Berrien County Commissioner

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- Chairman Juan Ganum called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

2. Minutes

- Motion by Brian Berndt, seconded by Darrell Harden: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2006 TAC MEETING. Motion passed.

3. Staff Report

- The new SWMPC website is live, though it's not yet 100% complete. Meeting agendas, minutes, and a lot of other data are now available on the website. Please update your bookmarks to reflect the new address of <http://www.swmpc.org>.
- Email addresses of staff at the SWMPC are changing from @swmicomm.org to @swmpc.org to reflect the name change to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. Please make these changes in your address book.
- Rachael and Kelly will soon begin working on updating employment data as part of our Long Range Plan update. This will be done, largely, in-house by Rachael and Kelly. The way this will be done is with Kelly and Rachael meeting with each municipality in the NATS urbanized area. Maps and spreadsheets of data will be reviewed at this meeting. The plan is to first review base year data (2006) and at a later time meet with municipalities again to review future/projected data. Timeline for the data SE collection will be to have base and future year data done and approved by the Committees in October 2007.

- The SWMPC is just about to begin a Green Infrastructure Inventory in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties. This inventory will encompass plant, animals, green space, and other valuable and sensitive green areas. More and more the federal government is requiring transportation planning to take environmental concerns into consideration and with SAFETEA-LU we are required to develop an Environmental Mitigation Plan. So, this Green Infrastructure Inventory, which will then be used to develop a Green Infrastructure Plan, is valuable to NATS as we select project to go into our TIP as we can easily identify if it will negatively affect an environmentally sensitive area. We are hoping this work can begin soon.

4. New Business

- TIP AMENDMENT - Motion by Brian Berndt, seconded by Darrell Harden: TO RECOMMEND TO THE POLICY COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF THE TIP AMENDMENT TO ADVANCE CONSTRUCT LAKE STREET, FROM THE BERRIEN COUNTY LINE TO HUNTLEY ROAD, IN FY2007 WITH REPAYMENT IN FY2009 TO UTILIZE LOCAL JOBS TODAY FUNDING. FEDERAL COST \$215,000; LOCAL COST; \$53,750; TOTAL COST \$268,750.” Motion passed.
- There was a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) call for project announced and a joint meeting between Berrien and Cass Counties was held on January 11, 2007 at the Berrien County Road Commission to select projects for FY2007. Projects for FY2008 and FY2009 were briefly discussed, but it was decided that those projects would be chosen at a later time. There is currently a public hearing scheduled for Cass County at the Cass County Road Commission Friday, January 26, 2007 at 10:00 am and a public hearing scheduled for Berrien County at the Berrien County Road Commission on January 29, 2007 at 1:00 pm. The public can comment on the projects selected at these hearings. Proposed projects can be found at <http://www.swmpc.org/cmaq.asp>.
- There was a call for projects for the FY2008 Federal Local Safety Program. Projects must meet certain warrants to receive funding. Deadline is March 1, 2007 to turn in applications and should come through the NATS Committees in February for support before submitting. Information on this program and applications can be found at <http://www.swmpc.org/safety08.asp>.
- The Project Selection Criteria Committee met in December and revised the Project Selection form. Handouts were given of the revisions and comments are being accepted. This form was revised jointly with TwinCATS as the goals and objectives for the two MPOs are the same. There were a few small changes proposed at their meeting and they were presented. This will be the form used for the FY2008-2011 call for projects being announced today. Motion by Brian Berndt, seconded by Darrell Harden: “TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT SELECTION FORM TO THE POLICY COMMITTEE PENDING CORRECTIONS.” Motion passed.
- There is a call for projects for FY2008-2011 for STP funds. Projects being submitted should be turned in on the new Project Selection form, if approved by the Policy Committee, at the February meeting. A sub-committee will be convened to select and prioritize projects. Brian Berndt, Joe Bellina, and Neil Coulston volunteered to serve on the project selection sub-committee. At the March meeting, projects selected will be presented and reviewed by TAC and Policy for approval. Funding for FY2009 will be reduced due to the rescissions that the federal government are doing that year due to SAFETEA-LU legislation. Funding levels for the four fiscal years is as follows:
 - FY2008 - \$531,001
 - FY2009 - \$534,874
 - FY2010 - \$545,571
 - FY2011 - \$556,483

- The TAC By-Laws state that in January of odd years there will be elections of Chair and Vice-Chair. Nominations were accepted for these positions and Joe Bellina was nominated for Chair and Joe Ray was been. Motion by Brian Berndt, seconded by Darrell Harden: “TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATIONS OF JOE BELLINA FOR CHAIR AND JOE RAY FOR VICE CHAIR.” Motion passed.
5. Old Business
 - Meeting date and time change was discussed and decided that it would be best to leave the date and time the same.
 6. Public Comment
 - None
 7. Privilege of the Floor
 - Kelly Getman-Dissette announced an article in this month’s Michigan Association of Planning’s magazine that dealt with transportation planning and recommended it to the Committee as a great article to read.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM – Next meeting February 27, 2007 at 1:30 PM.

Minutes compiled by:
Rachael Tupica, Associate Planner 1/25/07